



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **ELIZABETH Y. OLSEN, ESQ. NAMED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

Today Gov. Ruth Ann Minner joined David B. Mitchell, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Y. Olsen, Esq. as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS).

"Elizabeth's legal skills, combined with her legislative and policy experience, have made her a key member of the leadership team at the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. I am pleased that she will be moving up to this new position so she can continue to serve the people of our state and assist Secretary Mitchell in this new capacity," Gov. Minner said.

Olsen was appointed Deputy Secretary following the retirement of W. Neal Mills. In 2005, Olsen joined the Department as Policy Advisor. In this capacity, she has led the Department's legislative agenda working successfully with the Delaware General Assembly in the passage of several public safety laws.

"Deputy Secretary Olsen brings a wealth of experience and leadership to this position. Her legal expertise and knowledge of our organization will help move the Department forward. I have full faith and confidence in her ability to oversee the operations of DSHS and to serve the citizens of our State," said Sec. Mitchell.

She has also provided policy and legal advice on fiscal issues and matters pertaining to the operations of the Department. She is the Chairperson of the Legislative Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council and Chairperson of the Courts Pandemic Flu Coop Planning Working Group.

"When I joined the Department and as I made the transition from practicing domestic law, I never thought that two years later I would be in a position to serve in this capacity. I am truly thankful to Gov. Minner and Secretary Mitchell for their confidence in my abilities and the continued opportunity to work with the Safety and Homeland Security team and the Minner Administration," Olsen said.

Prior to joining DSHS, Olsen worked as an attorney for more than 10 years with Barros, McNamara, Scanlon, Malkiewicz & Taylor, P.A. handling general civil and criminal litigation in Delaware's State Courts with a concentration in domestic relations. She also has considerable experience in appellate practice and oral argument in the Delaware Supreme Court, especially in the submission of Supreme Court briefs.

Deputy Secretary Olsen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Skidmore College in New York and a *Juris* Doctor degree from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington. She is licensed to practice law in the U.S. Supreme Court, Federal District Court of Delaware, the State of Delaware and State of Maryland. She is a member of the Kent County Bar Association, American Bar Association and Delaware State Bar Association.

Deputy Secretary Olsen and her husband, Christian, reside in Dover and are the proud parents of two children, Nicholas and Maia.

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